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MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1864.

The VERY REV. CHARLES GRAVES, D. D., President, in the Chair.

The Rev. J. H. Jellett read a paper "On the Refraction of Polarized Light."

The Secretary of the Academy read the following communication from F. J. Foot, Esq., on a Quern Stone found in the neighbourhood of Ballinasloe, and presented by him to the Academy:—

THIS Quern Stone now presented was found, about one hundred years ago, in a fort in the townland of Gorteencahill (parish of Clonmacnowen, Ordnance Sheet, Galway, 87), about three miles south of Ballinasloe, and near the road leading from that town to Eyrecourt.

As well as I can ascertain, it was found lying on the surface, and was discovered in clearing away the low brushwood which encumbered the surface of a fort. This I think is probable, as it is well known the peasantry seldom dig the soil in a fort. It was not perfect when found, and since then it has undergone a good deal of ill usage. Two small crosses may be seen on the outer rim. Probably there was another on the part of the stone which has been broken off.

I recollect a few years ago seeing a quern stone near Liscannor, in the county of Clare, with three plain crosses on it, the surface of the stone having been cut away, so as to leave them in *alto relievo*. The place of the fourth cross was occupied by the hole for the turning handle. It was flat, and not convex, like the present one; indeed, I think, the great convexity of its upper side and corresponding concavity of the under side are perhaps the most striking features of this stone. It has evidently been much used, as may be seen by the worn and smooth appearance of the concave or grinding side, when compared with the rough surface of the convex.

The stone now before you is a piece of a highly micaceous schistose rock; and Mr. J. Beete Jukes, to whom I showed it, considers it identical with the metamorphic rock of Galway. In all probability, it was made from an erratic block of that rock. Boulders of the well-known porphyritic granite of Galway are abundant in the drift, S. and S.W. of Ballinasloe. The Quern, from its having been found in a fort, is supposed, as usual, by the peasantry, to be of Danish origin.

EDWARD BLYTH, F. Z. S., read the following paper:—

ON THE ANIMAL INHABITANTS OF ANCIENT IRELAND.

AFTER some preliminary and introductory observations, he proceeded to state that he had had the opportunity, only a few hours previous to this congress of learned and scientific gentlemen, of examining a number of skulls and other animal remains, of various degrees of antiquity, that had been recovered from the superficial deposits of Ireland. When time